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**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

**News Release**

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**20-year prison sentence for sexual assault on a minor**

LĪHU'E – Prosecuting Attorney Justin F. Kollar announced that Samson W. Harong, formerly of Puhi, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for sexually assaulting an 8-year-old girl while burglarizing a home in Puhi in May 2017.

The sentence was handed down by Fifth Circuit Judge Kathleen N.A. Watanabe this morning. Because Harong is not a U.S. citizen, he faces deportation following his prison sentence.

On May 29, 2017, Harong entered a plea of guilty to a charge of Sexual Assault in the First Degree, a class A felony. While police were investigating this case, Harong fled to the U.S. mainland. He was extradited back to Kaua'i in late December 2017, with the assistance of the U.S. Marshals Service. As part of his sentence, Harong will be required to repay the costs of the extradition.

The case was investigated by KPD Police Officer Kris Breyer and Detective Darren Rose. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Keola Siu prosecuted the case.

Kollar stated, "Protecting our keiki is the most important part of our job. We are very grateful to Officer Breyer and Detective Rose for their tremendous work on this case. We are also extremely thankful for our partners at the YWCA and the service they provide to children who have been traumatized by sexual predators. Although nothing can undo the harm inflicted

by this defendant, we are satisfied knowing that he will never walk the streets of this island again.”



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